



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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March 24, 2009

Board of Supervisors

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

### WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

#### White House Conference on Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

On March, 25 2009, the White House hosted a day-long conference on the implementation of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which was attended by representatives of the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the California State Association of Counties. County Washington, D.C. Advocates Reggie Todd and Susan White, who represented the County, reported the following information on the conference, which is summarized below.

Vice President Joe Biden, who was tasked by President Barack Obama to oversee ARRA implementation efforts, was the keynote speaker. In his remarks to local government officials in attendance, he stressed that in light of the unprecedented size and scope of the economic recovery program, the American people are counting on all levels of government "to get this right." He cautioned local officials that projects must not only be "legal," but also must pass the "smell test." He emphasized that projects should seek to create or save jobs, "get the biggest bang for the buck," and be readily defensible to the public and media. The Vice President indicated that "we want to be

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plugged in on what you're doing in your community," and that local officials having implementation problems may contact him directly at (202) 456-2070.

Earl Devaney, the Chairman of the Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board and lead Inspector General for ARRA implementation, also spoke at the conference. He indicated that Board staff will include audit, procurement, and intergovernmental officials and that the Board has created a Recovery Act website, [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov), which will track how funds are being spent, and which also includes information and links to other Federal agency websites on the ARRA. Waivers for any ARRA funding requirements will be determined by the Federal agency which administers the funds, rather than by the Accountability Board.

Representatives from the Office of Management and Budget; the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, Labor, and Transportation; and the Environmental Protection Agency also provided presentations on available funding. They indicated that the latest information on available funding is posted on their respective ARRA websites. The ARRA websites for each Federal agency can be found at this link: <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/agencies>. In addition, questions and comments on ARRA implementation can be referred to Federal officials listed on the attached chart which was distributed at the conference.

### **Tenant Representation on County's Public Housing Authority Governing Body**

The recently enacted Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act (Public Law 111-08) includes County-supported language that exempts the County from the Federal requirement to have a Section 8 or public housing tenant on the County's Public Housing Authority governing body. Instead, the County is required to have an advisory board with not less than six residents of public housing or Section 8 housing – a requirement met by the County's Housing Commission. This language is identical to the exemption included in the prior year's appropriations bill (Public Law 110-161).

### **Congressional Hearing on Evidence-Based Public Health**

On March 31, 2008, the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee will convene a hearing on evidence-based public health. At the request of the Subcommittee, County Health Officer and Public Health Director, Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, has been asked to testify regarding the implementation of evidence-based public health and opportunities to extend its use to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of State and local public health departments. Dr. Fielding also will be working with the County's Washington, D.C. advocates on Congressional

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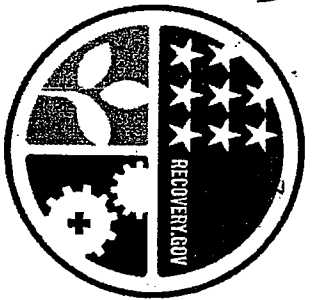
visits on public health matters relating to the economic stimulus bill and national health care reform.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK  
MAL:MT:sb

Attachment

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist



## ARRA IMPLEMENTATION CONFERENCE

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EPA	Craig Hooks	hooks.craig@epa.gov	202-564-4600	Acting Assistant Administrator
Homeland Security	Brian de Vallance	brian.devallance@hq.dhs.gov	202-447-3986	Senior Counselor to the Secretary; Senior Accountable Officer
Commerce	Ellen Herbst	eherst@doc.gov	202-482-6269	Senior Advisor for Recovery Act Implementation
Housing and Urban Development	Peter John Grace	Peter.j.grace@hud.gov	202-402-6629	Special Assistant to the Secretary, Strategic Planning and Management
	Bruce Katz	bruce.j.katz@hud.gov	202-402-6411	Senior Advisor to the Secretary
	Bill Hagy	Bill.Hagy@osec.usda.gov	202-720-7130	Confidential Assistant
Agriculture	Lindsay Daschle	Lindsay.Daschle@osec.usda.gov	202-720-5822	Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development
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Justice	Catherine L. Pierce	catherine.pierce@usdoj.gov	202-307-6026	Acting Director of the Office of the Office of Violence Against Women
	Timothy J. Quinn	timothy.quinn@usdoj.gov	202-616-2888	Acting Director of the Office of Community Oriented Police Services